

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish propagation waters located in the City/County of Suffolk, Virginia.

The impaired segment is located in VDH Growing Area #8 (063-008 Upper Nansemond River). The condemned area includes all of the Nansemond River and its tributaries lying upstream of a line drawn between map coordinate (N36°50'59.6", W76°31'52.7") and map coordinate (N36°51'07.4", W76°31'06.7"). The segment begins at lake Meade Dam and ends at Nansemond Point/Sleepy Hole.

All waters are tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

The affected water body segments were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters, and do not support the Aquatic Life Use Support Goal. The shellfish harvesting condemnation imposed by the VDH-Division of Shellfish Sanitation was the basis to assess this segment as minimally impaired for the Shellfishing Use Support Goal. A 0.32 square mile segment of the Nansemond River had sufficient exceedences of the fecal coliform bacteria and enterococci standard to assess this segment as impaired and not supporting the Recreation Use Support Goal (2004 Report). Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 6:00pm in the Morgan Memorial Library, 443 W. Washington St, Suffolk**. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the TMDL

development process and to share information on bacteria sources in the watershed. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact Jennifer Howell (contact information provided below). Information from this meeting will be made available on the DEQ TMDL web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/>

Questions or information requests should be addressed to Jennifer Howell. The public comment period will end on **March 23, 2006**. Written comments regarding the water quality study and TMDL development should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to: Jennifer Howell, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA, 23462, telephone (757) 518-2111, fax (757) 518-2003, or e-mail jshowell@deq.virginia.gov.